

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Saturday, December 30. 1710.

AND What must we do to support Credit? Says a Gentleman that thinks I say too much upon that Head; What is it you pretend to expect of us, the People, in the Case——?

I were a worse Idiot than Mr. Examiner, in his Abundance of good Manners, was pleas'd to call his Neighbours, if I should make so loud a Clamour at the Disease, and should have nothing to say about the Cure——The Duty is Reciprocal, and lies partly in *Parliament*; partly in *People*, partly in *Government*; partly in *Managing*; and I'll speak boldly and freely to them all; every one that is sensible of the Danger, will justify me in the blunt course

Treatment I give; I shall endeavour Decency, but I abhor Flattery.

First, the Support of Credit, lies upon the *Parliament*——And I am glad we all know who hears; the *Parliament*, of whom I speak, is sitting, and to the *Parliament* I appeal, even against the *Parliament*, if any there shall suggest that I go beyond my Duty, or that I speak what is not useful, in the great Article before me; the *Parliament* alone can cure some of the Wounds made in our Credit——I do not say all,——They cannot cure them all; some must be cur'd by the Hand alone that gave the Wound——Yet even in that Case, the *Parliament* also may exert some of its Power.

Power, to compel those People to do their Duty — If a Man be Enchanted by a Witch, they say fetching Blood of the Sorcerers will relieve him ; if a Body is bitten of Mad Dog, the Blood of the Furious Creature that Wounded him is the most proper Cure.

Heaven direct the *Parliament* in this difficult Task, for without it, all they can do will be in vain — The whole of their Burthen lies in this particular — What they can do themselves, I hope they will do — What others may, and ought to do, if they omit it, the *Parliament* must make them do it — *CREDIT*, my Charming Beautiful Mistress, has been possess'd by the Party-Witchcraft of National *Strife*, *Envy*, and *Ambition*, those Hellish Familiars, Offspring of the Devil, and first-born of Crime, Twins in Rebellion, Self-born, Self-begotten, the very Sins, that if possible, had polluted Heaven itself, and if I may say so, forc'd the God of Purity to dash them to pieces, and precipitate the Guilty Angels into Darkness and Death ; the same Crimes that Invaded the Almighty, the same in their degree, have Invaded this too happy Nation — And that they might make the Blow effectual to finish our Destruction, HERE they struck their Blow, here they fix'd their Devilish Talons, seiz'd with a Violence merely infernal, a compleat Witchcraft, a meer Possession, this Angel of our Prosperity, this Charm that with her pleasant Musick had delighted us, and with her happy Influence had enrich'd us, this noble Pledge, the Almighty's Blessing to us, our Credit: The Fury of Party-spleen in the shape of a deform'd Carline, a Hag shapen like the Devil, formidable in Figure, and loathsome in her Aspect, has bewitch'd our Credit, nothing but fetching Blood of this Sorceress, can relieve the Nation in this distress. — But this is not all the mischief; she, our Credit, has not only been thus bewitch'd, but wandering in her Frenzy, and careless of her own Safety, she was unfortunately for us all, bitten by that Mad-dog, the Rabble — And she lies

desperately Ill of both these Disasters to this Hour.

Some have said, the Blood of that *Wild-Beast* would have cur'd her — I confess I am, as our Quack Doctor's say in another Disease — For a Cure without Fluxing ; I am for Cures without Blood, if possible, and tho' no other Cure should be found effectual, I dare not be the Physician to prescribe this — Blood is a desperate Remedy, and tho' this be a desperate Distemper — Yet I will neither by Allegory or Simily, excite to Blood, let Governments do in that Case as they think fit.

But there are Cures perhaps without Blood ; Credit desperately Wounded, may yet be heal'd, by the Sovereign's Application of this Parliamentary Stiptick, provided this Mad-dog may but for the future, be so Chain'd, as that he may no more come at her, to bite her a second time — I must own, I fear one Wound more would be Mortal, and put her past Humane help — *Parliaments* are good Doctors, but I will not say that a *Parliament* can raise from the Dead ; Physicians have cur'd many a Sick Man, but they never cure Dead Men ; Death is no Disease, 'tis the Execution Executed, there is an end of all Application ; Art and Drugs fetch us sometimes from the brink of the Grave, but never out of the Grave itself.

If Credit be Wounded and Sick, she may be recover'd, but if she die, if once she expire quite, I dare not say any Humane Skill, whether of *Parliaments*, or any other, can fetch her back — At least in this Age.

————— *Facilis Descensus Avernii,*

Sed revocare gradum —————

Hoc Opus, hic Labor est —————

Virg. *Aeneid*. lib. 6. l. 126.

This therefore, with humble Submission to the *Parliament*, is the first Thing I would offer, viz. Credit can never thoroughly revive, never will her Rosie Cheeks recover their Virgin freshness, she can never Smile, appear pleas'd, and delight in

or, while she has the least fear upon her, of being again Assail'd by Rabble and Tumult; I have heard some asledge, all these Tumults have been rais'd by the Whigs, and they argue so, because they say, Whiggism is a Tumultuous Principle; I shall not enter upon that now, I refer it to the Time when better Proof of the Fact shall be made, than I find yet Room to expect; but let it be by whom it will, rais'd, that is not my Question; Tumult and Rabble are as Inconsistent with Credit, and Prosperity of Trade, as Fire is with Water, or Contention and Passion, with Calmness and Peace.

If the Whigs are Raisers of our Tumults, then I hope the Tories will by no means be against some wholesome Declaration against them; if the Dissenters are by Principle for raising Tumults, then the Churchmen must be suppos'd the readier to suppress them; if the Low Church Encourages the Rabble, why should the High Church be backward to Discourage them?

Can Credit revive? Can she look cheerfully Abroad in the World? Can the Encourage her Friends to venture their Estates upon her Recommendation, while Violence Ranges the Streets, and Mobbs Range over the Towns of Trade; may not they that break our Windows to Day, break our Houses to Morrow, and Murder as well as Plunder us the next Day? Can this Chast Virgin live easie among us, while she is liable to be Ravish'd every Day? The Thing seems to be unnatural, and not reasonable to expect.


From hence I humbly offer it to the Consideration of the present Parliament, whether in order to Revive and Restore Credit, it is not absolutely necessary in some

Publick manner, to discountenance and dis-
courage all kinds of Rabble, Violence, Breach
of Peace, &c. on any occasion whatever,
and rais'd by what Party soever; that Peace
and Property may be secure, Law and Jus-
tice Reign, and Maintain its Sovereignty,
and the quiet peaceable Subject doing his
Duty, and pursuing his Calling, may be
protected, assur'd, and made easie from the
Insults of the Streets.

I make no Reflections in this, I Enquire
not here, who has been the Fomenters of
these Things, the *Parliament* fix'd it once
already upon *Papists*, *Non-Jurors*, and En-
emies to the Queen; others have endeav-
our'd to cast it else where, the Enquiry
does not lie before me; the Business is not
who rais'd them, but who must lay them,
not from whom they took their first Encour-
agement, but from whom is it they must
expect their Discouragement? — And
without prescribing to Parliament, I lay it
down, Whose Work soever it is to restore
Credit, to support and uphold the General
Interest of the Nation; whose Work soever
it is to keep the Publick Peace, and protect
Property, their Work and their Duty it is,
to suppress Rabbles, and keep down Mobbs,
which are fatal to all these.

If this be not *Parliament* Work, let us see
whose Work it is, *Parliaments* only can sup-
port Credit. I shall next enquire, if *Par-
liaments* can support Credit, and not keep
down Tumults, make the People safe and
easie, and preserve the Nation's Peace; if
this Mystery can be found out, it will do all
the Work, for if *Parliaments* can raise Cre-
dit without suppressing Rabbles, then Rab-
bles may preserve Credit without a *Par-
liament*.

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tinu'd Discourse upon Trade in this Paper, but

been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the
Times, an unhappiness the Author did not
foresee when this Work was undertaken —
And finding it impossible to have his Essays
upon Trade pursu'd in this Paper, in such an
uninterrupted Manner as a Subject of this
Consequence requires; some Gentlemen, who

desire. That Work to be carried on, have made a Proposal, for the Writing a REVIEW to be entirely taken up upon the Subject of Trade, with a Miscellany, or a part reserv'd to handle Particular Cases in Trade——And expressly condition'd not to meddle with Matters of State, Divisions of Parties, or any thing relating to the Affairs of Government, Civil or Ecclesiastick.

This Work is propos'd to be Subscrib'd by such Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it,

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The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this Paper, as soon as it is brought to a Conclusion. Mean time any Gentlemen that are willing to Encourage such a Work, may let the Author know it by Letter, or such Method as they think fit.

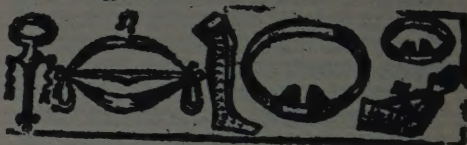
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Printed for and sold by John Baker at the Black-Bay in Pater-Noster-Row. 1710.